



# NEWS RELEASE

## Office of Representative Heather Carter

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **REPRESENTATIVE CARTER PROPOSES LEGISLATION TO INCREASE ACCESS TO LIFE SAVING MEDICATION**

**STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX (Monday, January 26, 2016)** – Representative Carter has proposed HB2355, a bill which would provide medical professionals with appropriate authority the ability to prescribe and administer a substance to reverse the effects of opioid overdose.

Last year we passed with overwhelming bipartisan support, HB 2489, which allows law enforcement and all levels of EMT to carry and administer the medication to people who need it most. Now we're taking the next step. HB 2355 is a step forward in averting these tragic losses by putting this medication in the hands of family and community members. When a person overdoses, they need immediate assistance with an opioid antagonist. Emergency responders have used this medication for 50 years, but now it must be made more accessible to people who are closest to a person at risk of an overdose.

Arizona would not be alone in this endeavor. 43 states across the nation have all adopted similar legislation with great success. It is estimated from The Network for Public Health Law that since the change in law over 26,000 opioid related overdoses have been reversed.

Rep. Carter stated, "Now we will empower people and communities with a tool to potentially save lives. This measure has been proven to work across the country and we will continue this important work to strengthen our communities and help those in dire need."

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